

SEPTEMBER 2011

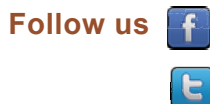
NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES

- FamilyCircle
2011

Meetings September

City Council 7 p.m.	6
Plan Commission 7 p.m.	6
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	6
Planning & Development 7 p.m.	12
Tree Commission 6:30 p.m.	14
City Council 7 p.m.	19
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	19
Plan Commission 7 p.m.	20
Government Services 7 p.m.	26



And be sure to visit the
City Administrator's
blog at
www.insidestcharles.com

City Holds Red Gate Bridge Groundbreaking More than 100 Attend Official Project Kick-off

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 100 people gathered at the Red Gate Bridge Groundbreaking Ceremony Thursday, Aug. 25, at Route 31 and Red Gate Road in St. Charles, to hear the slate of scheduled speakers, view renderings of the bridge and witness the ceremonial breaking of ground.

State, County and City officials, along with mayors from surrounding cities and members of the general public and press were in attendance.

Speakers included St. Charles Alderman Dan Stellato; Norman Stoner, Illinois Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration; Randy Ramey, Illinois State Representative 55th District; Karen McConaughay, Chairman of the Kane County Board; John Hoscheit, President of the Kane County Forest Preserve; and Donald P. DeWitte, Mayor of the City of St. Charles. All expressed satisfaction that the long-talked-about project was finally coming to fruition.

The new Red Gate Bridge will extend Red Gate Road across the Fox River to Route 25. The bridge will feature a two-lane car deck and pedestrian walkway that will connect to existing trails on either side of the river. The bridge will help knit the east and west sides of northern St. Charles, reduce traffic on Main Street and improve emergency vehicle access in northern St. Charles and the surrounding area. For more information, and to see more photos from the groundbreaking, visit www.redgatebridge.org.

View the progress on the Red Gate
Bridge Project webcam at
www.redgatebridge.org/about



Next Comprehensive Plan Meetings

Neighborhood and Business Workshops Planned

The next series of workshops for re-writing the Comprehensive Plan for the City of St. Charles has been set. All are encouraged to attend and participate. As the City's official Land Use and Development Policy Guide, the Comprehensive Plan guides property annexing, zoning changes, development/redevelopment projects, and public infrastructure improvements.

Neighborhood Workshops

East Side

Thurs., Sept. 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
St. John Neumann Church, 2900 E. Main St.

West Side

Wed., Sept. 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Kane County Circuit Clerk Bldg., Traffic Courtroom, 530 S. Randall Rd.

Downtown

Wed., Oct. 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Baker Memorial Community Center, Collins Auditorium, 101 S. 2nd St.

Business Workshop

A workshop will be held for the development community, business owners and managers:

Tues., Oct. 4, 8:00-9:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, 2 E. Main St.

First Street Brings Home Award

The First Street Redevelopment Project is the winner of the Municipal Development Award of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, at DePaul University in Chicago. The award recognizes municipalities that exhibit excellence in encouraging and managing development.





Visit the City's homepage
www.stcharlesil.gov and click
on the "Comprehensive Plan
Project Website" icon for:

- **News and updates**
- **Documents posted
throughout the process**
- **To provide feedback**
- **To offer input using the
interactive Planning
Mapper tool**

Welcome New Businesses!

WEST GATEWAY

Beef Shack

2115 W. Main St., 630-443-9797

Synergy Kettlebell Training Fitness Center
761 N. 17th St. #11, 630-708-0055

DOWNTOWN

Management Recruiters of St. Charles

310 S. 1st St., 630-377-6466

EAST GATEWAY

Dollar Tree Discount Store

2682 E. Main St., 630-587-6481

Sears Home Appliance Showroom

2712 E. Main St., 630-377-0088

Slider Frank's

2704 E. Main St., 630-444-1899

White Stag Tavern

1307 E. Main St., 630-444-3570

Drain Pool Water Appropriately

As the summer winds down and you begin to ready your outdoor spaces for colder weather, please remember it is important to dispose of swimming pool water properly. High concentrations of chlorine is toxic to wildlife and fish and therefore shouldn't be discharged directly into roadways and storm sewers, or wetlands, lakes, streams and rivers.

Please take a minute to review these guidelines to safely drain your swimming pool:

- De-chlorinate the water in the pool either mechanically or chemically prior to draining.
- Or, drain the pool over a period of several days across your lawn by following these steps:
 1. Allow pool water to sit at least two days in the sun. Test chlorine levels after two days to be sure they are safe (below 0.1 mg/l).
 2. Direct pool discharge across your lawn, not down the driveway or into storm sewers, which lead directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.



These recommendations are from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, visit www.epa.state.il.us/water. Or contact the Public Works Department at 630- 377-4405.

Thank you for doing your part to help promote cleaner wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers.

Evening of Chicago Bluegrass to Benefit Community



Rotary Foundation President Mark Nyman presents \$3,000 Scholarship Awards to Bruce Whitman and Nicholas Amatangelo

The Henhouse Prowlers, a nationally recognized Bluegrass band, will be in concert at the Arcada Theater in downtown St. Charles on October 21. The Henhouse Prowlers already have a PBS series soundtrack and three full length albums to their credit. This outstanding group has also won significant awards: 2010 Rockygrass Bluegrass Festival winners, Finalists at the 2010 Telluride Bluegrass competition, 2009 & 2010 Chicago Music Award Winners, and Winners in Best Bluegrass Category, Int'l Acoustic Music Awards, 2009.

Sponsoring the Henhouse Prowlers concert are the St. Charles Noon Rotary Club, the River Corridor Foundation, and Onesti Entertainment. This concert supports efforts by the Rotary Club to continue to fund youth scholarships and support community projects and for the River Corridor Foundation to control erosion, stabilize shoreline and develop walking and biking trails along the Fox River such as the Bob Leonard Walkway Extension.

Doors open at 7:30 PM. Tickets are available from St. Charles Noon Rotary Club members, members of the River Corridor Foundation, and from Onesti Entertainment at Oshows.com.

Water Service Disruptions

The city has received more calls than usual about discolored/rusty water this summer. We have been made aware of a number of unauthorized fire hydrant hookups by contractors, which likely caused the disruption of services and discolored water. We urge residents to call 911 if they see unauthorized tampering of hydrants.

Register Your Phone Number with the Electric Outage System

If you live within the St. Charles city limits, be sure to register your phone number with the new electric outage system. Based on caller I.D. technology, the system links



**New number to report
electric outages
866-444-0016**

your phone number to your account so the location of your outage can be identified automatically when you call to report it. You also will receive updates on the outage and a return call to confirm your power is restored. Simply call Utility Billing at 630-377-4426 or register online at www.stcharlesil.gov/ubills.

50/50 Parkway Tree Program

Parkway trees are available once again through the City's 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program. When you purchase a tree, the City's tree consultant will plant your tree, mulch around it and provide a "gator bag" for watering. Trees will be planted in late October or early November, come with care instructions and are covered by a one-year warranty.

Available Trees

Japanese Lilac \$155
Autumn Blaze Maple \$155
State Street Maple \$155

Greenspire Linden \$155
Prairiefire Crabapple \$115
Triumph Elm \$155

Orders may be mailed or delivered using the order form below, along with a check or money order made payable to the **City of St. Charles**. Send payment to:

Utility Billing Office
2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174

Orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2011. Please contact Ben Deutsch at 630.377.4405 or bdeutsch@stcharlesil.gov with questions.



50/50 Parkway Tree Program Order Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please indicate your choice of tree from the list above:

Total Order Amount \$ _____

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East	West
Sept. 19	Sept. 26
Oct. 17	Oct. 24
Nov. 21	Nov. 28

Brush also can be placed in paper yard waste bags for pick-up with regular refuse. Either bags with the City logo or generic bags can be used. However, generic bags require one refuse sticker on each bag.

Free mulch is offered when available for pick up at the City's facility on Rte. 38/Lincoln Hwy., west of Peck Road, Mon.- Fri., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leaf Pick Up Schedule

It's almost that time of year again to rake those falling leaves. Leaf pick up will begin the last week of October. The complete schedule will appear in the October issue of the *Den*.

With Fall Approaching, Now is the Time to Check Your Furnace and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

September and October are excellent months to check your furnace and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working properly.

Did you know that dirt is one of the biggest enemies of a furnace? By not routinely cleaning and checking your furnace you might be wasting fuel and lowering the efficiency of your furnace.

The type of furnace you have, either fueled by gas, electric, or oil, will determine how a furnace technician will check and clean your furnace to keeping it running in top shape.

Your furnace's filter system, blower, motor, burner and gas valve all need cleaning. The filter should be replaced or cleaned at the beginning of the heating season and then once a month during periods of use. Remove it and replace it with a new filter of the same type and size. If the filter is clogged, replace it, even if it hasn't been in the furnace for a long time. Cleaning or changing the filter will help to circulate more air. Some technicians suggest you turn your furnace on low for a day when not in regular use to ensure it is running well.

When you are having a new furnace installed we do require a building permit, which can be obtained from our Building and Code Enforcement department.

Once the furnace is installed, you must schedule a final inspection with our office to ensure proper installation.

During routine check-ups, the technician usually will check for carbon monoxide in your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be similar to the flu—headaches, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness—and can result in tragic deaths. The technician should check the chimney and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.

Purchase a carbon monoxide detector/alarm that meets the requirements of the current UL standards and install it within 15 feet of all sleeping areas, according to manufacturer's instructions. Make sure furniture or draperies cannot cover up the detector.

While a carbon monoxide detector/alarm can provide added protection, you should perform routine check-ups on appliances that can produce carbon monoxide. Make sure appliances are installed according to manufacturer's instructions and building codes.

For more information, please contact Building and Code Enforcement department at 630-377-4406.

Avoiding Fire Hazards can be Simple

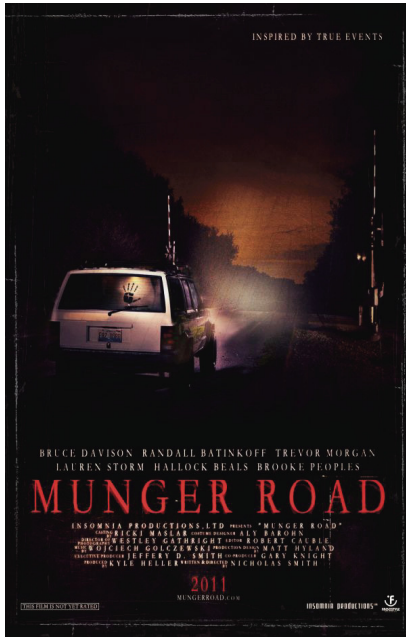
The St. Charles Fire Department reports that 40 structure fires have occurred in St. Charles so far this year, with losses totaling more than \$880,000. The dangers of fire are evident, yet most can be prevented. Please take a moment to review the following checklist to help you inspect your home for fire hazards:

- Are all appliance and extension cords in good condition? Worn or damaged cords are hazardous.
- Are all electrical cords in the open? They should not be located under rugs or walking surfaces, through doorways, above ceilings or other locations where the cord could be exposed to excessive wear or damage.
- Are all appliances with hot surfaces kept away from combustible material? Remember light bulbs can be extremely hot.
- Are all combustibles a minimum of three feet from your furnace and hot water heater?
- Before the heating season, do you have your furnace inspected and cleaned?
- Do you have tight-fitting metal or glass doors on all wood burning devices?
- Do you have your chimney cleaned regularly? Creosote buildup can cause fires.
- Are all portable heaters placed away from combustibles such as curtains, drapes or bedding?
- Turn off portable heaters before going to bed.
- **TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS MONTHLY.**

This list is not all inclusive. Please contact the St. Charles Fire Department at 630-377-4458 with any questions.



Munger Road Premiere



The feature-length thriller Munger Road is premiering to the general public at midnight on Thursday, September 29 at Classic Cinemas in Charlestowne Mall.

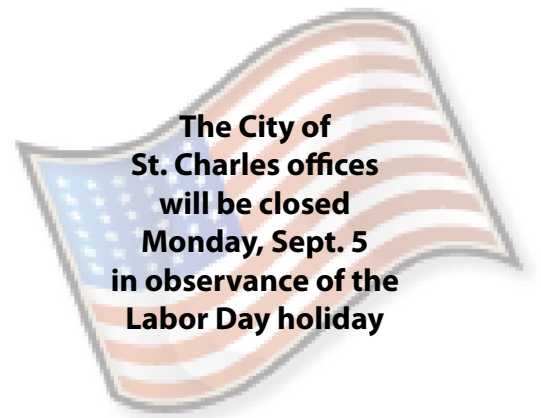
The film, set during Scarecrow Festival and shot on-location in St. Charles, stars Academy Award nominee Bruce Davison, and is directed by St. Charles native Nicholas Smith.

For information, visit www.mungerroad.com. For showtimes, please call Classic Cinemas Charlestowne 18 at 630-587-3300.

Recycle Your Old Fridge or Freezer

Got an old refrigerator you have been meaning to get rid of? The City of St. Charles is participating in the Recycle My Fridge Program, which offers residents free pickup and recycling of their old refrigerators and freezers. Simply call 877-341-2313 (toll free) or visit www.RecycleMyFridge.org to learn more and schedule a free pickup of your old refrigerator or freezer. You will receive a \$35 prepaid rebate card within four to six weeks of your pick-up.

The program is conducted by the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, in conjunction with the Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA), Inc. For more information contact Glynn Amburgey in the St. Charles Electric Utility at 630-377-4407.



Congrats to the Police Dept.

The St. Charles Police Department recently was granted its 7th Award of National Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. They also received the "Accreditation with Excellence" Award, presented to Agencies that display excellence in a manner that sets the benchmark for public safety professionalism.



**The Den is produced by
The City of St. Charles
2 E. Main Street St., Charles, IL 60174
630-377-4400**